



Rotary Club of Lake in the Hills, Illinois Scholarship Application 2025-26

2413 W Algonquin Road #305 • Algonquin, IL 60102

The Rotary Club of Lake in the Hills is offering up to 5 Scholarships listed below for students to help prepare them for the future and fuel their passion for their chosen career path. Candidates must also demonstrate their passion for involvement through community activities, employment and/or school activities.

Our Scholarships:

Tom Stock Memorial Scholarship: This \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to one high school senior who is a member in good standing with the Rotary Interact and demonstrates academic excellence as well as a commitment to community service.

Service Above Self Scholarship: This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to three high school seniors who successfully demonstrates academic excellence with Grades of a "C" or better, as well as a commitment to community service.

Scholarship Requirements:

- Applicants must attend one of the following high schools or be invited by a Rotary Club of Lake in the Hills member to apply: Jacobs High School, Huntley High School, Crystal Lake South High School, Crystal Lake Central High School, Cary Grove High School, Marion Central High School, Prairie Ridge High School
- Applicants must be graduating high school in 2026.
- Applicants must have a “C” average or better as verified by a transcript that will be included with this application packet.
- Applicants must demonstrate participation in community, employment and/or school activities.
- Questions 1-3 must be typed and double spaced.**
- All Essays must be submitted **electronically** to the following email address: **lithrotaryclub@gmail.com**. No physical copies will be accepted unless accommodations are needed or required by the school to be submitted physically. Please Email/Call with any questions or submission issues.
- All Essays must be original. Any previously published material must be used in quotes.
- All Essays will be scanned to verify no AI has been used to draft Scholarship Essay.
- A **minimum of 2 signed letters** of recommendation must be included with the application – up to a maximum of 4 letters. The letters cannot include any family members. Letters can be physically submitted, but **electronically** is preferred alongside your essay to ensure all documents are received properly and quickly.
- Applicants **may be** required to participate in an interview with the Scholarship Committee.
- The scholarship award must be dispersed within one year from the date of award notification or the award will be null and void.
- Recipients will be announced by end of May 2026 via email and phone call.

- ❑ *The recipient of All Scholarship Types will be required to attend the presentation of the award on the Saturday evening of the Rotary Club of Lake in the Hills' annual RibFest held this year July 9th through 12th.*
- ❑ *The recipient of All Scholarship Types will be required to Volunteer for a 2.5 hour Shift of any of the days of the annual Rotary Club of Lake in the Hills' Ribfest held this year July 9th-12th*
- Completed applications are due to the Rotary Club of Lake in the Hills email address **Lithrotaryclub@gmail.com** no later than March 31, 2026. **Any Concerns or Questions, Reach out to Nicky at (312) 813-5165**
- Any missing documents, inserts and/or attachments not included as requested may result in the application being removed from consideration.
- Scholarship recipients may be requested to provide a future testimonial regarding how they benefited from the scholarship award and/or be apart of an exclusive interview by our media team.



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Scholarship Application 2025-26**

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Current Member of InterAct: Yes No How many years active: _____

Intended Course of Study: _____

Intended School, College, University: _____

Start Date: (When Will You Begin Your Studies) _____

Estimated Cost of Annual Tuition: (Including room/board) _____

How Much Funding Has Your Institution Offered You? _____

Has Any Financial Support Been Committed to You? _____

How Do You Plan to Finance Your Education? _____ How Did You Find Out About This Scholarship? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High School | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify in the space below): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counselor | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Internet | | |

The following questions must be answered in essay style.

- All answers must be typed, double spaced and **limited to 1000 words** per question.
- Each question should be answered on **its own sheet of paper** and collated in the order the questions are presented.
- You may only place your name and question number in the **upper right corner** of each page. Please do not put your name within the essays themselves.

Question 1: The Journey of Service

Reflect on your journey of **active** involvement in school (Clubs, Sports, Etc.), community, or volunteer activities (such as volunteer, employment/internships and community service organizations):

- What inspired you to get involved, and what has kept you motivated?
- How have these experiences shaped your values, character, and goals for the future?
- Share one story or moment that captures how you made a difference for yourself, family, and/or community, even in a small way.

(Tip: Think about the spark, the first person, cause, or moment that made you want to serve others.)

Question 2: Inspiring Others to Serve

Rotary believes that leadership through service multiplies impact. Imagine you could inspire more students to volunteer, especially for a cause you care deeply about.

- How would you creatively encourage others your age to get involved?
- What message, campaign, or approach might make volunteerism appealing, meaningful, and lasting among your peers?
- If you could design a project for your school or community that would make a real difference, what would it look like?

(Tip: Don't be afraid to think big or differently, creativity and passion are the heart of leadership.)

Question 3: The Bridge Between Learning and Serving

Education and service strengthen each other.

- How will your chosen field of study or future career allow you to serve your community or the world?
- How do your experiences as a volunteer influence how you learn, study, or see challenges in school?
- In what ways can your education help you expand the spirit of volunteerism beyond graduation?

(Tip: Consider how your learning and service feed one another, one gives purpose, the other gives power.)

Question 4: Living the Rotary Four-Way Test

Rotary's guiding principles are known as the **Four-Way Test**:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Reflect on how these four questions can serve as your personal compass in depth.

- How do you already practice these principles in your daily life, at school, or in your community?
- How will the Four-Way Test help you grow in your studies, leadership, and service to others?
- How will it inspire you to build a better world, starting with yourself?

(Tip: This isn't just about right or wrong, it's about how you think, act, and lead through kindness, fairness, and integrity. Think Critically.)

Please ensure your submission packet is complete!

Checklist for submission

- Completed application
- Essays
- Two signed letters of recommendation (Minimum)
- Educational transcripts – Please check one of the following:
 - Copy of transcripts from my most recent school are attached (unofficial copies will be accepted)
 - A transcript from my most recent school is being sent directly from the school and will arrive no later than March 31, 2026.

Attestation

- I affirm that this application, including all written essay materials is my own work (or formally cited from other sources) and the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I understand that this application will be available only to qualified people who need to see it in the course of their duties.
- I affirm that I will precisely follow all directions, guidelines and rules listed on this application form.
- I agree to provide a testimonial, either in writing and/or by video during the first year of my secondary education studies, regarding the benefit of the scholarship award toward furthering my studies if requested.

Applicant Signature _____ **Date** _____